

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

D¹ 14. (Amended) A method for detecting bacteria having fimbriae, comprising detecting bacteria having fimbriae from a cultivation medium within the time period of 3 to 10 hours from the onset of cultivation, by detecting fimbrial antigens which are expressed soon after inoculation into the medium, and before an actual growth phase of the bacteria or in the beginning of the growth phase.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the fimbrial proteins are type 1 fimbriae proteins or comparable to them.

D² 20. (Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the microbial antigens are detected with antibodies, which have been produced against the synthetic peptide sequence Ala Ser Phe Thr Ala Ile Gly Asp Thr Thr Ala Gln Val Pro Phe Ser Ile Val SEQ ID NO: 1, or a derivative thereof.